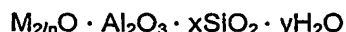


CLAIMS

1. An aqueous slurry comprising

(a) a crystalline aluminosilicate represented by the empirical formula



5 wherein M represents a first metal moiety, said first metal having a valency of n, x indicates the ratio of atoms of silicon to atoms of aluminium and y indicates the ratio of molecules of water to atoms of aluminium,

(b) a salt of a second metal selected from the group consisting of Group III metals, metallic elements of Group IV, magnesium, titanium, chromium, iron, nickel,
10 copper, zinc, zirconium and silver, said salt of a second metal being present in an amount which is sufficient to replace from about 2.0 to about 40 per cent by weight of the first metal moiety, and

(c) particulate silica having a BET surface area greater than 500 m²/g and a pore volume, as measured by nitrogen manometry of less than 2.1 cm³/g.

15

2. An aqueous slurry according to claim 1 characterised in that M is sodium.

3. An aqueous slurry according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the crystalline aluminosilicate is a zeolite P, zeolite A or zeolite X.

20

4. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the second metal is aluminium, zirconium or tin.

5. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that it has a pH in the range 6 to 9.

25

6. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the crystalline aluminosilicate has a volume average particle size in the range 0.1 to 20 µm.

30

7. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the amount of crystalline aluminosilicate present in the slurry is in the range 20 to 50 per cent by weight calculated as dry aluminosilicate.

8. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the silica has a BET surface area greater than 600 m²/g.

35

9. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the silica has a pore volume of less than $1.2 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

10. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in
5 that the silica has a volume average particle size in the range 0.5 to $30 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

11. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the amount of silica present in the slurry is in the range 0.2 to 40 per cent by weight with respect to dry weight of crystalline aluminosilicate present.

10

12. An aqueous slurry according to any one of the preceding claims in which the metal salt is a halide, a nitrate or a sulphate.